

Message Text

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S E C R E T REYKJAVIK 1357

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POLTO 3

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR IC NATO

SUBJECT: ICELAND BASE NEGOTIATIONS - SECOND MEETING OF SECOND
ROUND

REF: POLTO 2

1. SUMMARY. SECOND MEETING GOT DOWN TO NUMBERS OF US MILITARY PERSONNEL TO BE REDUCED AND PROCESS OF CIVILIANIZATION. REGARDING ELIMINATION OR LIBERALIZATION OF RESTRICTIONS ON IDF MEMBERS, FONMIN APPEARED TO REGARD THEM AS GENERALLY REASONABLE, BUT CONDITIONED ICELANDIC ACTION ON SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE OF REDUCTIONS. PRECISE DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING IN DECEMBER REMAIN TO BE DECIDED. END SUMMARY.

2. SECOND MEETING OF SECOND ROUND CONSISTED LARGELY OF DISCUSSION OF NUMBERS INVOLVED IN TABLES HANDED OVER TO ICELANDIC TEAM. SUBJECTS OF TABLES WERE:

1. UNITS HOME-BASED ELSEWHERE AND ON ROTATIONAL DUTY IN ICELAND;

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2. REPLACEMENT OF US MILITARY PERSONNEL BY ICELANDIC NATIONALS OR OTHER CIVILIANS WITHOUT SECURITY SCREENING PROGRAM;

3. ESSENTIAL MILITARY COMPONENTS OF THE IDF;

4. ESTIMATED TIME PERIODS FOR CIVILIANIZATION OF THE IDF.

3. I NOTED THAT TOTAL OF NUMBER OF AMERICANS REDUCED IN TABLE 2 (429) PLUS NUMBER OF AMERICANS BASED ELSEWHERE BUT ON ROTATION IN ICELAND (445) PLUS FIGURE OF 200 QUALIFIED ICELANDERS OR OTHER NATIONALS WHO COULD REPLACE AMERICANS IN POSITIONS REQUIRING ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION WOULD TOTAL 1074.

4. FONMIN'S FIRST REACTION WAS TO POINT OUT THAT ONLY 465 REPRESENTED IMMEDIATE CHANGE. (I AM NOT SURE HOW HE ARRIVED AT FIGURE OF 465.) ON THIS BASIS, FONMIN SAID HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT REACTION WHEN HE PRESENTS SITUATION TO HIS COLLEAGUES.

5. I MADE STRONG PITCH FOR MAINTAINING OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND ESSENTIAL MILITARY CARE OF BASE WHILE CIVILIANIZING JOBS TO EXTENT POSSIBLE. I INDICATED US WAS READY TO REVIEW SITUATION LATER AND TO CONSULT WITH ICELANDERS AS DEVELOPMENTS AT BASE AND ELSEWHERE BECAME CLEARER. I SAID WE DID NOT WISH TO MISLEAD FONMIN OR TO BE PRECISE ABOUT POSSIBLE CHANGES WHICH COULD NOT NOW BE FORESEEN.

6. FONMIN RECAPITULATED MATTER OF REDUCTIONS IN US MILITARY PERSONNEL. FIRST, HE ANTICIPATED THAT US PROPOSAL WOULD BE REGARDED AS INSUFFICIENT. SECONDLY, HE WONDERED IF IDEA BEHIND US PROPOSAL WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE IF ICELANDERS COULD AGREE TO IDEA IN PRINCIPLE WITH THE CONDITION US SHOULD DO MORE. HE SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THIS ASPECT. THIRDLY, HE WOULD LOOK INTO QUESTION OF "ACCESSORIES" AND INTO FORM OF AGREEMENT, AS APPROPRIATE. HE MENTIONED THAT NOT ALL PARTS OF COALITION GOVERNMENT WERE LIKELY TO ACCEPT US PROPOSAL BUT HE WOULD GIVE US REACTIONS BY TIME OF DECEMBER MEETING.

7. IN CLARIFICATION OF FOREGOING NUMBERS QUESTION, MFA LEGAL ADVISER ANDERSEN ASKED HOW MANY AMERICAN MILITARY WOULD BE LEFT BY MID-1975 UNDER IDEAL REDUCTION CONDITIONS. USING FIGURE OF
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3317 FOR TOTAL US MILITARY ON BOARD, FIGURE OF 2243 WAS GIVEN REPRESENTING 3317 MINUS PROPOSED REDUCTIONS OF 1074. IT WAS EMPHASIZED THAT 425 MEN IN ROTATIONAL UNITS HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN 3317 ALTHOUGH THEY SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN. THEY SHOULD NOW BE SUBTRACTED. FONMIN FOUND THAT SUBTRACTION OF 425 IN TABLE 1, AS WELL AS THOSE IN TABLE 2 COULD BE HELPFUL, AND SEEMED TO REALIZE BOTH COULD BE PRESENTED TO ICELANDIC PUBLIC AS A REDUCTION.

8. ON FORM OF AGREEMENT, I HANDED OVER DRAFT EXCHANGE OF NOTES AND DRAFT MOU AND EXPLAINED RATIONALE. FONMIN CONSENTED TO STUDY THESE IN EVENT OF AGREEMENT ON BASIC ISSUES. HE PPERSONALLY FORE- SAW NO PROBLEMS WITH THIS APPROACH.

9. ON LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS OF THE IDF, I HANDED FONMIN OUTLINE OF SUBJECTS ON WHICH US WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ICELANDIC AGREEMENT. I STRESSED THAT ELIMINATION OF UNIFORM REQUIREMENT WOULD ACCORD WITH CHANGED CHARACTER OF BASE, INCREASING CIVILIANIZATION AND DESIRE TO DE-EMPHASIZE US MILITARY PRESENCE. I ADDED THAT RECORD OF CONDUCT OF MILITARY PERSONNEL JUSTIFIED THIS LIBERALIZATION AND THAT REMOVING THIS RESTRICTION WOULD BRING ICELANDIC PRACTICE IN LINE WITH THAT IN OTHER NATO COUNTRIES. SIMILARLY, I WENT INTO SUBJECTS OF CURFEW AND TAKE-OFF RESTRICTIONS. HOWEVER, FONMIN EXPRESSED VIEW THERE SHOULD BE NO CHANGE WHILE IDF NEGOTIATIONS WERE IN PROGRESS, BUT ON BEING PRESSED INDICATED HE WILL PROVIDE HIS VIEWS PRIOR TO NEXT MEETING.

10. ON EMPLOYMENT OF DEPENDENTS, I POINTED OUT CONNECTION WITH REDUCTION OF US MILITARY PERSONNEL. WHEN PRESSED, WE SUGGESTED THAT 100 DEPENDENTS COULD PROBABLY BE EMPLOYED.

11. ON NO-STRIKE PROVISION, LEGAL ADVISER ANDERSEN GAVE ME HELPFUL SUPPORT BY SUGGESTING IT WAS BOTH RELEVANT AND APPROPRIATE FOR ICELANDIC EMPLOYEES OF IDF TO BE TREATED ON SAME BASIS AS CIVIL SERVANTS.

12. FONMIN PROMISED ICELANDIC REACTIONS TO PRINCIPAL US PROPOSALS VIA EMBASSY REYKJAVIK IN ADVANCE OF NEXT MEETING IN DECEMBER BUT IT WAS NOT DECIDED WHEN AND WHERE IT WOULD BE HELD. FONMIN SUGGESTED M

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